

BARTON COUNTY DEMOCRAT.

VOLUME XII.

GREAT BEND, KANSAS, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 1896.

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WINTER FIREWORKS.

A Celebration Not Generally Advertised, But Extremely Picturesque.



BOUND the vicinity of Forest Avenue and Bloody Alley, made famous by many an exciting event in days of yore, there was a flutter of excitement and foreboding of expectancy last Saturday that awoke in the minds of the oldest inhabitants recollections of former days in Great Bend when the festive cowboy disported himself on our streets and cavorted about in a free-and-easy way that threatened—and sometimes brought about—death and destruction. Nothing of a sanguinary character, however, resulted from Saturday's fracas.

Everybody knows Col. Dave Gray, of Hoisington, and that he is one of the jolliest fellows about; full of fun as the weeds are full of chiggers in July, and as hard to "head off" as a populist street orator talking on silver.

Well, Dave came over to Great Bend Saturday to see the boys. While in Keenan & Scroggins' saloon on Forest avenue, standing about telling stories and joshing the boys in a manner peculiar to himself, Dave was made the victim of a practical joke that for a few minutes furnished amusement equal to Si Plunkard's threshing machine act. Some one fastened a bunch of firecrackers in the middle of Dave's back and applied a lighted match.

Dave danced the bear dance, double shuffle, and out several varieties of new capers; then he delivered an extemporaneous lecture in language too effusive for publication.

But that was only a side-show to what followed. Dave knew what a real western fireworks show ought to be. He retired from the room, and in half an hour came back to ring up the curtain on the grand finale.

He quietly came in through the back door, having in each hand what looked to be a bundle of sticks. A confederate produced a match as the door was opened, and then the REAL fun began. Zipl! Bang!! Whoop-la!!!

The whole neighborhood was aroused by a succession of loud reports and fiendish yells. In the saloon Pandemonium reigned. Balls of red, white and blue fire shot here and there in promiscuous scatterment, and in a shorter time than it takes to write it Dave was master of the ranch.

With a demoniac yell that awoke the echoes and peeled the paper from the wall he fired Roman candles at the retreating forms of the proprietors and guests as they hastily scooted to cover or yamoused the ranch. He varied the program by shooting the glasses off the counter, spotting the eyes of the pictures on the wall and plugging the bung-holes of barrels with little balls of fire.

Yes, it was a three-ring circus, with an unusual number of clowns, and lofty tumblers. And Dave is laughing yet.

LOCAL NOTES.

Out on time of course.

Si Plunkard is coming.

Two assessments in the A. O. U. W. for February.

A social dance was given at the Hulme hall Friday night.

Judge Grimstead, or Leoti, passed through the city on his way to Garden City Tuesday evening.

With a foot of snow on top of the ground now, Barton county farmers would be "strictly in the push."

H. S. Harper, who has been at Lyons for several months, is now at home again on the farm near Heizer.

An entertainment and box supper was given at No. 33 school house Saturday, and was well attended.

F. M. Russell is breaking a 12 or 15 acre tract, in the Welles addition, which he will seed to alfalfa this spring.

A young son of Will Spencer, about three years old, was playing about the

yard Saturday, having a small stick in his hand, when he fell and ran the stick into his eye. It is thought that the eye ball is not broken.

Oxford Bibles from 90c to \$2.75, at Simpson & Co's.

School Visitor is an all home print paper devoted to the schools, only 35c per year.

H. F. Myers, the machinist, has just received a couple of elegant "Crescent" bicycles. To see them is to want them.

Central draught Banquet Lamps at Simpson & Co's. from \$2.50 to \$5.

Isaac Scammahorn, of Clarence township, went to Oklahoma, Monday, to secure a tract of pasture land for his stock.

Henry Myers is having new counters and shelving and other improvements put into his grocery, in preparations for the spring trade.

John Schlorf and family, who were visiting with the family of M. Eppstein, returned to their home in Emporia Saturday morning.

School Books at Chicago list prices; also, the new Excelsior Readers, at Simpson & Co's.

Members of the Rebekah lodge called in a body upon Billy Coles Saturday evening, and report having spent a very pleasant evening.

Tom Keenan, Jr., was up from the Strip last week. He reports a very mild winter, and the outlook good for crops next summer.

The entertainment by the Guerilla Club, at the collage Saturday evening was attended by a large crowd, and was well worth seeing.

Editor Cooke of the Clarion Leader was quite patriotic last week. He got out the Leader on Kansas Day, printed on red poster paper.

Prescriptions carefully compounded, and the best and purest of drugs sold by Simpson & Co.

A third ward man deplores the hard times because he can't afford a new pair of pants, and his "rents" are mostly in "er-rears" too.

The DEMOCRAT wants to hear from all its old correspondents, and as many new ones as desire to help make the best paper in the county.

Charlie Hobart is making a good paper of the Hoisington Dispatch. He deserves a liberal patronage from that town, and appears to be getting it.

Mrs. Althea Briggs Stryker, of this city, lately paid a visit to the Nations Capitol, and was shown through the public buildings by Senator Pepper.

See those nickle lamps at Simpson & Co's., central draught, for \$2 and \$2.15—a snap.

Do you want to buy, or sell, or trade, or exchange anything? Ten or fifteen cents invested in a local in the DEMOCRAT will find you a customer. Try it.

Mrs. Bertie Depew's baby, aged about two months, died at the home of M. F. Compton, February 2nd and was buried from there Monday, February, 3rd.

Wall Paper to be sold at and BELOW cost—to reduce the stock—at Simpson & Co's. See it before buying.

W. F. Putnam was called home from McCracken on account of the illness of Mrs. Putnam. He has been giving the DEMOCRAT a lift the past few days.

Won't we have a "hot time" next summer? The weather hot, politics hot, suffragists hot—and not a ton of 'ce put up yet! Whew! Wouldn't that just melt you?

The Santa Fe has warned its employees that three garnishments in one year will be considered by the railroad company as sufficient cause for dismissal from the services of the railroad.

J. Reznidechek and wife, of Omaha, Nebraska, stopped off on their way home from California a couple of days last week to visit with Joe Troillet's. Mr. Reznidechek is a cousin of Mrs. Troillet.

Little Louie Zutavern, about five years old, is a young American who does not let anything go unobserved; but he got slightly off the other day when he called attention to a young lady with "boomers" on.

SOME IMPROVEMENTS.

And Others Which Should Be Made For The Public Good.



RECORDING commendable virtues or complimenting good acts is always a pleasure, and the DEMOCRAT is glad to call the attention of the public to the new order

of affairs that has been inaugurated in the court house. That building belongs to every citizen and taxpayer of Barton County, and we are interested in its proper care and management; you will therefore be interested in knowing that changes for the better have been made.

We visited the office of L. P. Aber, the new sheriff, last week, and were pleased with what we saw. The office has been newly painted and the walls kalsomined. The dirt that has been accumulating for years was dug out and carted away, and the floor made sweet and clean by a liberal use of lye and water, and where the deposits of many unclean feet was want to offend the nostrils and obstruct passage now rests new matting; while on the walls hang pleasing pictures and bric-a-brac. The office has desks and tables conveniently located, and everything possesses an orderly appearance.

The sheriff showed us into the jail which has not yet been blessed with a renovating hand; but which he says he will put in a condition more like civilization if the county commissioners will authorize him to make the small expenditure necessary. And the commissioners should do it—as a matter of protection to public interest, if for no reasons of humanity. Some day a man will be confined there who proves himself innocent, and whose manhood will revolt sufficiently to cause him to enter suit against the county for damages by reason of his being confined in such a place.

Another office that has the appearance of being conducted in a more orderly manner is that of the county clerk. Clerk Pitts, with his deputy O. J. Richards, has re-arranged the entire office and placed things in a condition more in accord with what the public expects of an office of such importance. This office should also be provided with a few more chairs for the public convenience.

The Great Bend Foundry and Machine Co. have leased their machine shop to H. F. Meyers. He will do all kinds of machine work promptly and in a workman like manner; also Blacksmithing in all its branches; will also do all kinds of Bicycle repairing and buy and sell Bicycles and Trimmings. Give me a call, I will treat you right. 3t

FOR SALE: A well improved farm of 160 acres, 8 miles north of Hollywood Barton county Kansas, value \$1,800, will sell at a bargain. For particulars address Mrs. E. W. ALLEN, 248 Clark avenue, Freeport, Ill.

We move that a subscription be taken up and a new flag purchased to hoist over the court house on proper occasions. "Old Glory" is always beautiful, but not so beautiful when in the condition the present court house flag is in as would be a new one.

The "Daughters of the King" will give a "senses party" at the home of Miss Floy Gillmore, on Wednesday evening, February 12. Admission 10 cents.

Going to Oripple Creek?

If so you will find that the Missouri Pacific R. R. will give you first class service; duplicate the rates of any other road, and set you down right at Oripple Creek. J. RASOR, Ag't.

Hornbeck, at the old Beye stand has the best grades of apples and sell at the lowest market prices. See him before buying. Also fresh cider and older vinegar always on hand.

L. M. Kniseley, who was found guilty of assault with intent to kill, at Hoisington some months ago, was to have had a hearing before Judge Clark last Thursday in argument for a new trial. Judge Clark came up and opened up court for that purpose, but Kniseley failed to appear and forfeited his bonds, \$2,000. It is reported that Kniseley left Hoisington some time ago and that his whereabouts is unknown.

Mrs. Frank Dell returned from Kansas City last Thursday, where she had been with her brother, John Shaeffer, while he underwent a surgical operation for a stiff knee joint. She says men are brought into the Surgical Institute almost every day mashed or cut almost to pieces, but are bandaged and plastered, sewed up and trepanned, and turned out in a short time apparently as good as new. John will be home this week.

M. N. Towers, of the north side, was in town Saturday. He said he would like to negotiate some "bonds" he is interested in. His bonds are not of the "popular loan" kind, and he anticipates some trouble in getting rid of them. It may be that Ex Justice Kniseley has gone east to form a syndicate to take care of the bonds friend Towers—and several others—are interested in.

The old law and order league was revived, at the M. E. church last Sunday night, with J. K. Humphrey as president, D. G. Gibbons vice president, and O. W. Dawson secretary. Rev. D. J. Woods, a riproarer from Halstead, was present and made an address that stirred up the faithful but did not appear to please the politicians.

January, 1896, usually one of the worst months in the year, has passed into history as a phenomenal month. It was warm and open almost every day, with several ~~ice~~ spells that have not been duplicated for many a year. Old residents say it was just such a January as precedes a good crop season.

We want to close out our stock of stoves, and are offering them at actual cost to us. You cannot afford to let this opportunity pass to get a good stove at cost. This is no catch advertisement, but we mean business.

Great Bend Implement Co.

The Degree of Honor lodge gave a reception to about a hundred friends at the A. O. U. W. hall last evening. The Degree of Honor is a most pleasing adjunct to the Workmen lodge, and to the untiring efforts of the ladies members is due much of the success of the Workmen as a social organization.

If you want to build up a prosperous community spend your money at home. The merchants who advertise in the home papers are doing their share to help build up a town that will furnish our farmers a home market, and work for our laborers.

Assoon as some of the bachelors whose advertisement appeared in the DEMOCRAT recently are married off, we have a few more very excellent young men on the list whose good points we will show up for the benefit of the ladies.

Otis Bolinger, Will Boughan, and Bert Ward drove to Ellinwood Sunday. Going down their team became unmanageable; ran away, and tore things up generally. This was while going to Ellinwood, remember.

Roy Putnam, our foreman, in order keep up the record of good (?) luck that surged in great, top-heavy waves over this office last week, got his hand caught in one of the job presses and his fingers considerably mashed.

Frank Kramer reports that a six foot vein of coal has been found in Ellis county, but a short distance from the north-west corner of Barton county. If this turns out to be a good coal vein it ought to cheapen coal in this county.

When thinking of laying in your supply of spring seeds remember that the Great Bend Implement Co. will have a complete stock of the FARMER'S seeds, from the best houses, for sale at hard times prices.

PERSONAL POINTS.



GEORGE M. Moss visited Charley Hobart at Hoisington, Sunday.

Mrs. T. D. Stradley, who has been visiting in Larned a week, returned home last Thursday.

Dick Ewalt Jr., is lying sick at Enid, Ok.

Press Typer is reported a little better this week.

H. B. Byers was down from near Heizer Saturday.

Pat Boughan and wife visited in Ellinwood Sunday.

Howard Bishop left for Cripple Creek Monday night.

Mrs. Harry Shore was quite sick the first of the week.

Jake Alefs and wife were in from Buffalo, Monday, trading.

Mrs. Geo. Stryker is visiting her daughters, at Colorado City.

Prof. A. W. Hamilton, of Pawnee Rock, spent Saturday in the city.

Mrs. Ola Chapman returned, Saturday, from a week's visit in Larned.

Mrs. A. R. Williams was seriously ill the first of the week, but is now mending.

Art Pursell has moved into town from the south side, and will live in the 4th ward.

N. S. Scroggins, a Mo. P. engineer, was over from Hoisington Thursday to visit George.

Pete Brack and Wm. Opie of Olmitz were doing business in the county seat Monday.

T. M. Beardsley, formerly the night operator here at the Santa Fe, is transferred to Sterling.

Attorney Will Osmond spent most of last week in Ness City, looking after A. T. & S. F. interests in court there.

Mr. Cross, bridge inspector for the Mo. P., was in the county seat Saturday.

Wm. Yates, of Larned, came down to take a course in the C. N. C., the first of the week.

Dr. H. E. Lindas arrived from Larned Monday and will be found this week at Dr. Castles dental parlors.

Harry Shore, of the 4th ward, had a birth-day last Tuesday and some of the neighbors called and helped him celebrate in proper style.

Mrs. Geo. N. Helfrich of Richfield, Morton county, came down last week to pay a visit Register of Deeds Klein and family.

Attorneys Smith, Clarke and Swartz attended court at Larned, Tuesday.

Martin Ummen, of near Albert, was another good farmer friend of the DEMOCRAT to call with congratulations last Saturday.

Will Rankin came down from Utica, Kan., last week, to visit his folks in Great Bend.

Walter McCray, of the C. N. C. was laid up a few days from a fall received by a chair tipping over when he stepped on it.

John Eddy, an old-timer in this county, has gone to New Orleans to join Prof. Andness in the show business.

J. M. Myers, of north Stafford, has been laid up almost all winter, but is some better this week.

Major G. F. Mecklem of the north west, was congratulating the new-old DEMOCRAT man, Saturday.

Frank Marsh, who is teaching in the east end of the county, was visiting Editor Armstrong, Saturday.

W. P. White drove down from Heizer Saturday, and called on the DEMOCRAT.

G. Albo Deuseberry and wife, of Clarin, who are east to spend the winter, had the misfortune to loose two of their children with diphtheria.

John Rehn, Chas. Morrison, Will Kelley, C. S. Allison, Walt Cornell and G. W. Nimocks attended the Masonic meeting at Ellinwood Saturday evening last.